



Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr.  
Governor

Michael T. Richard  
Director

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**The National Energy Resources Organization recognizes Governor Ehrlich and the Maryland Energy Administration with the Public Outreach Award**

The National Energy Resources Organization (NERO) has recognized Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr. and the Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) with its Award for Public Outreach for its program to educate Marylanders about the energy savings and environmental benefits of purchasing ENERGY STAR® labeled products and homes. Former Senator and Chairman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, John Bennett Johnston (D-LA), presented the award to Michael Richard, Director of MEA, at the NERO annual Awards Dinner in Washington, D.C. on May 10, 2005.

“Maryland’s ENERGY STAR campaign is one of the most visible and extensive public education and outreach programs in the country,” said Sen. Johnston in praising Governor Ehrlich and the MEA program.

MEA, an ENERGY STAR partner since 2001, was honored for promoting the construction of new homes that meet U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s strict guidelines for energy efficiency. ENERGY STAR qualified new homes use substantially less energy for heating, cooling, and water heating, which allows homeowners to save about \$200 to \$400 annually on their utility bills. Governor Ehrlich has served as the spokesperson for the Maryland ENERGY STAR program since its inception. He was featured in television ads promoting ENERGY STAR New Homes that have aired across the State. In addition to this outreach, MEA has conducted training courses and co-produced a field guide for builders on energy-efficient building techniques. Maryland has also partnered with Habitat for Humanity to bring these efficient building technologies to the affordable housing sector.

“I am pleased to report that Marylanders have responded to Governor Ehrlich’s ENERGY STAR messages and as a result, sales of ENERGY STAR products have increased, and in many product categories sales exceed the national averages. And we continue to add Home Builder partners who are building ENERGY STAR homes,” said Michael Richard in accepting the award. “With ENERGY STAR, consumers help achieve the Nation’s energy efficiency goals without sacrificing quality, features or personal comfort.”

NERO was formed in 1975 as a non-profit organization to promote discussion on energy policy, recognize achievements in the wise, efficient use of energy, and encourage innovation and the application of new technology. Past recipients of the NERO Outreach Award include the National Energy Foundation, New York State Energy Research and Development Authority, and the Alliance to Save Energy. Senator Larry Craig (R-ID) was honored by NERO at the same event with its Distinguished Service Award.

This is the second major award given to Governor Ehrlich and MEA for the State ENERGY STAR program. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency presented its Excellence in Energy Efficiency and Environmental Education award in a March 15, 2005 event.